

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

MID-PACIFIC REGION

**SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

Draft

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Santa Clara Valley Water District Access Road Repair
– Calaveras Fault Crossing**

**Central Valley Project
Sacramento, California**

FONSI-06-91

Recommended by:

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In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that the approval of repair three slope failures on the north side of the access road causeway is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by Reclamation's Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-06-91, Santa Clara Valley Water District Access Road Repair – Calaveras Fault Crossing, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to repair The Proposed Action consists of the repair of three slope failures on the north side of the access road causeway; see Appendix C for the conceptual design drawing of the repair. The intent of the design is to maintain the road width, unload the failing portion of the existing north slope, and prevent the existing slope failures from progressing.

This project proposes the installation of Geofoam blocks beneath the crest of the roadway (see Appendix C). Geofoam is made from cellular plastic material and is produced in block form; it is very lightweight and has a high strength-to-density ratio. The SCC conveys CVP water to the District. Maintenance of the SCC is imperative to continue ongoing CVP water deliveries. A portion of the conduit runs over a strike slip fault that creeps several millimeters per year. The slow but continuous creep requires more frequent access to the SCC for inspection and repair due to the constant stresses on the pipeline. The purpose of the project is to repair the existing access road allowing maintenance opportunities on the SCC in the vicinity of the Calaveras Fault. The repair is needed to allow continued access to maintain existing facilities that provide vital water supplies to Santa Clara County.

FINDINGS

Water Resources: The Proposed Action would not disrupt water supplies to customers. The construction activities would occur during the dry season when San Felipe Lake is low. Santa Clara Valley Water District or its contractor would be responsible for implementing the measures and best management practices to prevent migration of soils into San Felipe Lake. Spoil piles will reside on the existing roadway and be surrounded by erosion control fencing and the work will take place in the dry season so there would not be erosion related water quality impacts. Surface and ground water quality and quantity would not change.

Land Use: The construction project includes Best Management Practices as described in Attachment B of the incorporated by reference EA. The Proposed Action will not interfere with current operations or obligations to deliver water users and therefore will not cause any changes to development patterns. The repair of the road involves three sites where the slopes are failing. The existing telemetric lines will be temporarily re-located during construction. Dust control measures will be implemented. All excavation equipment, activities and material will be confined to the existing access road. The excavation material will be reused in compaction layers of backfill. Containment shall be provided in such a manner that accidental spill of fuel, contaminate sediments, or other hazardous materials shall not be able to enter the water or damage surrounding vegetation.

Excavation spoil should not be allowed to enter, or be placed where it may later enter any water body. Sanitary facilities would be placed away from water bodies and removed when no longer necessary. Work and materials would be confined to the existing roadway and not on the slopes. The entire project involves less than one acre of lands. The Proposed Action would not have an adverse effect on unique geological features such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, refuges, flood plains, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands. The Proposed Action allows access to maintain and operate existing facilities that provide a source of water to the County of Santa Clara. Maintaining and operating the existing facilities ensure water supplies continue to be delivered to support existing conditions. No land use changes would occur.

Biological Resources: Reclamation has determined the Proposed Action would not likely adversely affect listed threatened and endangered species or their federally designated habitat. This determination is based on implementing the environmental commitments within the project, the short-term duration (two weeks) of construction activities, work would be conducted in the dry season, pre-construction biological surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to construction, work would be confined to the existing road and a qualified biologist will be present during ground disturbing construction. If threatened and endangered species are found, work would cease and the Service would be notified for further consultations. Reclamation is informally consulting with FWS on the Proposed Action. The final EA, Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and approvals are contingent upon conclusions of the consultations.

Cultural Resources: Under the Proposed Action there would be no potential to affect historic properties [36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)]. There are no new facilities being constructed, only the replacement of an already existing structure. The construction will take place in the existing footprint and will occur mostly offshore. Since cultural resources are unlikely to occur at the project site, and this site has been disturbed in the past, the Proposed Action would not result in major impacts to cultural resources. No historic properties will be affected by this action.

Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action would not disturb or interfere with Indian Trust resources because none occur within the project area. Under the Proposed Action, water supplies would not be interrupted to customers in Santa Clara County including Indian Casinos and reservations.

Socioeconomic Resources: The Proposed Action allows the continued access to the vital water supply facilities for Santa Clara County. Water supplies and deliveries to customers would not be interrupted. The Proposed Action would not result in changes in the socio-economical conditions.

Environmental Justice: The Proposed Action would continue the status quo. Repair of the existing access road would not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease. The Proposed Action would not disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations. There would be no changes to existing conditions. Employment opportunities for low-income wage earners and minority population groups would be within historical conditions. Disadvantaged populations would not be subject to disproportionate impacts.

Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action, when added to other past, present, and future actions does not result in additional diversions of water, or significantly impact biological, cultural, recreation or socioeconomic resources. Neither Indian Trust Assets nor disadvantaged or minority populations would be impacted. Water quality would not be degraded as a result of construction activities. Overall there would be no cumulative impacts due to this Proposed Action.